

## **General Assembly Hospital Throughput Work Group Meeting Summary (Virtual)**

Dec. 5, 2023

MHA convened the General Assembly Hospital Throughput Work Group virtually to discuss state comparison on length of stay and hospital throughput efforts.

- Erin Dorrien, vice president of policy at MHA, presented on existing policy and legislative initiatives in varying states like using state Medicaid programs for expanded services to vulnerable populations, workforce development options and behavioral health improvements.
- As part of the discussion members expressed the importance of improving patient experience in hospitals which are correlated to emergency department wait times.
- Members discussed the need to match patients with the particular hospital bed for their acuity and condition—noting that rarely are the beds customized for the right patient, which is common at research institutions.
- Guardianship legislation, one of the throughput recommendations, was emphasized as a front-end solution that expedites the process for patients who otherwise would be discharged or transferred.
- Regarding Maryland's demographic make-up, members questioned if there are additional analyses or data studies that highlight the impact that Maryland's higher percentage black and brown residents have on Maryland hospitals in comparison to other states.
- Members proposed continuing with some type of work group to ensure the throughput solutions are achieved.

### **Next Steps**

- MHA will meet internally to discuss an additional meeting in January.
- The Work Group will meet in person on Dec. 12.